THE FOURTH DAY.

3rd March 1921.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Thursday, the 3rd March 1921.

32. Desirability of introducing certain changes in the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation.

Mr. R. Madhavan Unnithan (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) gave the history of the law on the subject of jenmom property and pointed out the defects in the incidents of tenure affecting jenmom lands. The system of "complex ownership" with respect to these lands was a real bar to land improvement, and the relationship between the jenmi and the kudiyan was anything but satisfactory. The law on the subject, Regulation V of 1071, was defective inasmuch as there was no provision in it in respect of verpattom lands belonging to jenmies, as the rights of the kudiyans on the one hand and of the jenmies on the other were unsettled and had to be definitely determined and provided for in the statute. These two circumstances, the Member said, gave rise to considerable litigation and discontent. The Member therefore requested that the suggestions of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Committee be soon taken into consideration and a law be enacted to define the relative rights and duties of the jenmies and kudiyans, in view to minimise litigation and encourage agriculture.

Dewan's reply.—I have already said in my opening Address that the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil is engaged in drafting a Bill to amend the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation. Mr. Unnithan's chief charge against the Government is the delay that has been allowed to occur in the matter. The Additional Head Sirkar Vakil says that it was only a few months ago that he was definitely asked to study the records and frame the Bill. He is now at it and he expects to submit the draft Regulation to Government within three months. I may assure the Member that Government will proceed with its consideration without avoidable delay when it reaches their hands.

33. The urgent need for amending the Nair Regulation allowing Makkathayam and individual partition among Nairs.

Mr. M. Krishnan Govindan (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) prefaced his representation by saying that the demand for partition among Nairs was not a new one. It was, as the result of repeated representations from the leaders of the community, that the Marumakkathayam Committee was appointed, and the Nair Regulation, I of 1088, was passed. Although nearly 88 per cent. of the witnesses examined by the Committee were for partition, the Bill did not provide for the partition of Nair tarwads. That was a defect which the community in general felt very keenly. The Member pointed out that, though the Nairs were in point of intelligence and capacity for work second to no other community, their system of inheritance was responsible for their present distress and degeneration. Individual partition and Makkathayam were the only salvation for the community and the cry for these changes had been vigorously going on for more than half a dozen years. He prayed in conclusion that the Regulation be so amended as to make provision for (1) individual partition in Nair tarwads, (2) Makkathayam among Nairs and (3) strict monogomy.

The Member also submitted a number of petitions and resolutions, passed at different centres asking for the suggested amendment of the law, received by him as Vice-President of the Nair Social Reform League, Tiruvalla.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly